

Belle Grove
Near Middletown
Frederick County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-259

HABS
VA
35-MIDT-1
2

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Headquarters Office
for District of Virginia

WES
VA
35. MIDTOWN

BELLE GROVE
Near Middletown, Frederick County, Virginia

Owner: William Henry Claflin, Jr.

Date of erection: c. 1780

Present condition: Good

Description:

Stone; one story above high basement; hipped roof; four inside chimneys; front seven bays, four center bays grouped; central door with arched transom, Doric pilasters, and entablature; sash 9/9 lights; central portico porch, with pediment received against main roof. Plan--central and transverse halls; two small rooms either side front door; three large at rear. Simple, well designed, original Georgian trim.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

W 11/27/40

Addendum to
Belle Grove
Middletown vicinity
Frederick County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-259

HABS
VA,
35- MIDTOL
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Virginia	COUNTY Frederick	TOWN OR VICINITY Middletown vicinity
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Belle Grove		HABS NO. VA-259
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) W. side of U. S. Rte 11, approx. 1 mi. S of Middletown		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c. 1795 - from bills and letters relating to construction, in "Belle Grove Documents."	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Thomas Jefferson offered advice. Builder was a Mr. Bond. H. Peaslee did c. 1929 work.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Belle Grove is a distinguished example of a late 18th century Virginia manor house, with the added interest of Jefferson's influence. His advice was sought by the builder, and judging from the structure, which is quite Jeffersonian in spirit, the advice was followed. During the Civil War Battle of Cedar Creek, Belle Grove served as Union headquarters.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Jeffersonian		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Exterior walls of gray limestone laid in coursed ashlar. Floor and roof framing of wood.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See accompanying HABS drawings.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Quoins at corners on front of main block. Tetrastylar, pedimented porticoes center front and rear elevations of main block. Stuccoed, splayed lintels with projecting keystones on main block.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Elegant late classical style trim. Major rooms have panelled overmantels and cornices.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES West wing added between 1815 and 1820. Ice house in yard dates from c. 1815-28. After F. W. Hunnewell purchased the property in 1929, he engaged Horace Peaslee of Washington to restore the house. Central heating was installed at this time, and paint removed from two rooms on either side of entrance hall.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Operated as a historic house museum, under auspices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (as of 1972). West wing serves as offices and curator's quarters.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The builder of Belle Grove, Major Isaac Hite, was the grandson of one of the earliest settlers in the area. Hite's wife was the sister of James Madison, and it was through him that Jefferson's advice on the plan of the house was obtained.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) See page 2 of this report. The house has been designated a National Historic Landmark.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Wesley Ivan Shank, Historian; Winchester, Va. HABS project, 1972. Al Chambers, HABS, editor, 1984.		DATE August 1972 February 1984

Sources of Information

Primary and unpublished sources.

"Belle Grove Documents." Construction. Transcriptions by Ellen Beasley of documents relating to the farm and the family. In loose-leaf folder at Belle Grove.

Frederick County, Virginia. Deed Book No. 19, No. 85, No. 87, No. 90, No. 96, No. 128, No. 140, No. 144, No. 159.

----- Will Book No. 19, No. 23, No. 65.

Secondary and published sources.

Beasley, Ellen. "Appendix: Belle Grove and Its Documentation." Historic Preservation, Vol. 20, Nos. 3-4 (July-Dec. 1968) pp. 72-84.

Dingledine, Raymond C., Jr. "The Civil War and the Shenandoah Valley." Historic Preservation, Vol. 20, Nos. 3-4 (July-Dec. 1968), pp. 60-71.

"Introduction." Historic Preservation, Vol. 20, Nos. 3-4 (July-Dec. 1968), pp. 4, 5.

Nichols, Frederick D. "Belle Grove in the Developing Civilization of the Valley of Virginia." Historic Preservation, Vol. 20, Nos. 3-4 (July-Dec. 1968), pp. 7-18.

Pickerell, J. Julian, and Fogg, Gordon. An Economic and Social Survey of Frederick County. Charlottesville, Va: University of Virginia, 1930.

Skinner, John Stuart. "Notes on Virginia Husbandry." American Farmer, Vol. 3, No. 14 (June 29, 1821), pp. 105, 106. (Photo-static copy and transcription by Ellen Beasley is in "Belle Grove Documents.")